

A new species of the genus *Paulianiobia* Dirsh & Descamps, 1968 from India

(Orth. Acridoidea)

BY

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In 1969 Professor K. S. Kushwaha of Udaipur University (India) sent to me for identification a very interesting Acridid specimen. It was at once clear to me that the specimen belonged to the genus *Paulianiobia* Dirsh & Descamps, 1968. The genus was originally described as *Paulianacris* Dirsh, 1962 (nom. preoc.) from Madagascar. Further study of the Indian specimen revealed that though superficially very similar to *Paulianiobia hirsuta* (Dirsh, 1962) from Madagascar, the specimen nevertheless has several characters which separate it from *P. hirsuta* as a distinct species.

In a letter, Prof. Kushwaha informed me that two specimens of this species, both females, were collected on grass during the course of random sampling in pasture lands.

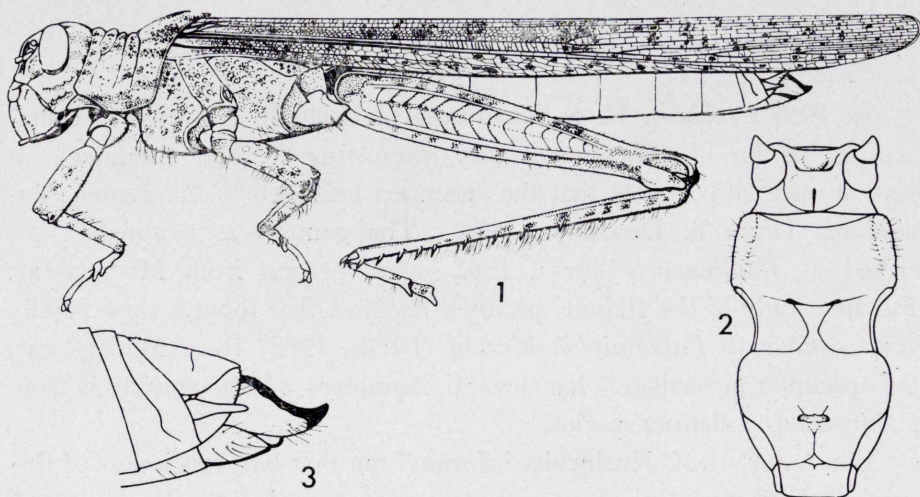
The most interesting feature of the new species is its wide geographical separation from the only other known species of the genus.

Paulianiobia indica nov. sp.

Holotype ♀, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India (In British Museum Natural History).

♀ (Holotype). Large. Integument rugose. (Antennae broken.) Head moderately prognathous. Frontal ridge short, widened and deeply concave at ocellus, narrowing towards clypeus; large, deep, bean-shaped fastigial foveolae present, located between lateral ocelli and frontal ridge. Pronotum strongly saddle-shaped, crossed by four sulci; median carina discernible, between first and second sulci forming small tubercle; posterior margin of metazona rounded. Prosternum long, forming collar-like anterior margin and in middle with pyramidal elevation, which is flat and slightly concave at apical surface. Mesosternal

interspace longer than its width, angularly incurved in middle. Tegmina and wings exceed end of abdomen by one length of pronotum; stridulatory veinlets reduced, but quite distinct, reticulation moderately dense. Femur-tibia joint with membranous covering, forming on inner side rather large sclerotized lobe. Posterior margin of subgenital plate straight except for protruding egg guide. Ovipositor comparatively short, valves moderately curved, at apices subacute.



Figs. 1-3.—*Paulianiobia indica* nov. sp.: 1) type; 2) sternal part of thorax; 3) ovipositor, side view.

Coloration grey, mottled with dark grey; wing colourless, transparent, venation black; inner side of hind femur buff, except lower margin, which is blackish; lower part of hind femur buff except inner one-third which is black; hind tibia above grey, inner side greyish with black middle and apical parts; spines with black apices.

Length of body 49.1; pronotum 8.6; tegmina 46.3; hind femur 23.2 mm.

Holotype ♀. Udaipur, Rajasthan, India, 15.VII.1965. In the British Museum (Natural History).

This species differs from *P. hirsuta* in the following characters: head less prognathous; fastigial foveolae more developed; frontal ridge narrowing downwards; presence of weak but discernible median carina of pronotum; prosternum elevated in the middle; sides of mesosternal interspace angularly incurved, whereas in *hirsuta* they are only slightly and not angularly incurved; stridulatory veinlets of tegmina compara-

tively well developed and more robust; ovipositor valves less acute, their margins not serrated; and in other characters mentioned in the description.

This species somewhat extends the diagnosis of the genus *Paulianiobia*, but not sufficiently to warrant separate generic status.

When the genus *Paulianiobia* was described, it was considered to be an endemic Madagascar genus. The discovery of a congeneric species in India means that the faunas of Madagascar and India are connected more closely than was previously supposed in respect of *Acridoidea*; in certain other insect groups a similar connection is well known.

References.

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